



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2002**

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FIVE PERSONS IN CUSTODY IN MILLION DOLLAR ARMORED CAR ROBBERY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Guadalupe Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix, Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today announced the arrests today of ANTHONY CARLOS MATHEWS, d.o.b. 11/7/77, of Phoenix, Arizona, JOSE F. MASCARENO, d.b.o. 3/7/77, of Phoenix, Arizona, and RAUL ROMAN VILLASAEZ, d.o.b. 9/4/79, of Phoenix, Arizona, and the arrest of MICHAEL MOUSSA, d.o.b. 1/4/78, of Gilbert, Arizona, on January 2, 2002, and the arrest of CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR, d.o.b. 7/12/77, of Phoenix, Arizona, on December 19, 2001. All five defendants face charges of Interference with Interstate Commerce in violation of 118 U.S.C. § 1951, and Brandishing a Firearm in Connection with a Crime of Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c). Complaints were authorized for Mathews, Mascareno and Villasaez by U.S. Magistrate Judge Virginia A. Mathis on January 10, 2002, and for Moussa by U.S. Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan on December 29, 2001. A federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a two count indictment against Gaybor on December 18, 2001.

Gaybor's indictment contains the following allegations:

COUNT 1

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1. At all times material to this charge and within the District of Arizona, AT Systems, an armored carrier with offices located at 4010 North 27th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, was engaged in the transportation of United States currency, checks and other financial documents for commercial enterprises which were engaged in the retail sale of numerous products, including groceries, tobacco, clothing, hardware, automotive supplies and other products purchased wholesale in interstate and foreign commerce, and part of the retail industry which affects interstate and foreign commerce.

2. On or about December 5, 2001, in the District of Arizona, defendant CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR was an armored car driver employed by AT Systems.

3. On or about December 5, 2001, in the District of Arizona, Michael Hutchinson was an armored car messenger employed by AT Systems.

4. On or about December 5, 2001, in the District of Arizona, defendant CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR and Michael Hutchinson carried out their duties as employees for AT Systems by traveling together in an armored car to multiple locations and collecting, for transportation and deposit, United States currency, checks and other financial documents from multiple retailers including:

- A. Wal Mart Store Number 1381
10603 South Ellsworth Road
Apache Junction, Arizona
- B. Walgreen Drug Store Number 4188
55 West Apache Trail
Apache Junction, Arizona
- C. Fry's Store Number 23
5941 East Mc Kellips
Mesa, Arizona
- D. Home Depot Store Number 456
6838 East Superstition
Mesa, Arizona
- E. Costco Store Number 433
1235 South Power Road
Mesa, Arizona
- F. Target Store Number 639
1525 South Power Road
Mesa, Arizona
- G. K-Mart Store Number 3185
2840 East Main Street
Mesa, Arizona

5. On or about December 5, 2001, in the District of Arizona, defendant CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR did knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully take and obtain money, checks and other financial documents from Michael Hutchinson, while he was working as a armored carrier messenger for AT Systems, by means of actual and threatened force, violence and fear of immediate injury to his person, in that defendant CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR, along with at least two other individuals armed with handguns, demanded that Michael Hutchinson give them the

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money contained in the armored car when the natural consequences of the robbery would be to delay, interrupt and adversely effect interstate and foreign commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in interstate and foreign commerce.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 2.

COUNT 2

On or about December 5, 2001, in the District of Arizona, defendant CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR, did use, carry and brandish firearms, that is, handguns, during and in relation to a crime of violence, that is, Interfering with Commerce by Threats and Violence as alleged in Count 1 of this Indictment, a felony prosecutable in a Court of the United States.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(ii) and 2 .

The armored car was robbed while it was making a pick-up and deposit at the Home Depot store located at 425 South Val Vista, Gilbert, Arizona. A cash audit following the robbery conducted by AT Systems revealed a total loss \$1,787,725.24 in currency, checks and credit card receipts. In the course of an unrelated investigation, the U.S. Customs Service recovered over \$200,000 of the stolen money during the execution of a federal search warrant. All five of the defendants have been taken into custody without incident and are presently being detained. Mathews, Mascareno and Villasaiez will have an initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Virginia A. Mathis, in Phoenix, Arizona, at 3:00 p.m.

A conviction for Interference with Interstate Commerce in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. A conviction for Brandishing a Firearm in Connection with a Crime of Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) carries a minimum mandatory consecutive penalty of 7 years to life imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

Mr. Charlton stressed that indictments and complaints are simply methods by which persons are charged with criminal activity and raise no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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The investigation preceding the complaints and indictment was conducted Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mesa Police Department, Gilbert Police Department and Phoenix Police Department with assistance from the U.S. Customs Service

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Battista, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1136-PHX-SMM

RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-006

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